

REMARKS

Claim 1-8 and 11 have been amended to recite that the rubber composition is a steel cord-rubber composite body. Support for amended Claims 1-8 and 11 can be found at, for example, paragraphs [0054]-[0056] and [0079]. Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 and 11 are pending.

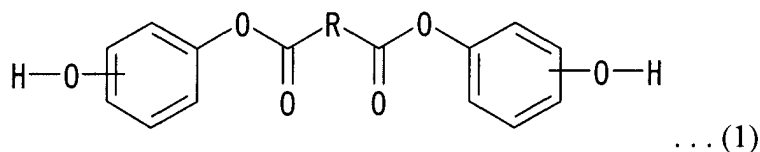
Response to Claim Rejections Under §103

A. Claims 1-5 and 7-9 (and presumably Claim 11) have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over EP 434596 to Hahn; and

B. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,076,668 to Kaneda.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

The present claims are directed to a steel cord-rubber composite body comprising a steel cord and a rubber composition, wherein the rubber composition comprises 1-10 parts by mass of sulfur and 0.1-10 parts by mass of a compound represented by the following general formula (1) based on 100 parts by mass of a rubber component:



(wherein R represents a divalent aliphatic group having a carbon number of 1-16 or a divalent aromatic group).

According to the present invention, the adhesion between the rubber composition (coating rubber) and the steel cord can be highly improved by using: (a) a compound represented

by presently claimed formula (1); or (b) a composition containing a compound represented by presently claimed formula (2) and a compound represented by presently claimed formula (3) in the rubber composition for the coating rubber. In this regard, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to Tables 4 and 5 in the present specification.

Hahn discloses a high modulus rubber composition prepared by using terephthaloyl chloride and hydroquinone. In this regard, the object of Hahn is to provide a high modulus rubber composition. Hahn fails to disclose or suggest improved adhesion between a coating rubber and a steel cord. Moreover, such improved adhesion, especially humidity-aged adhesion, between the rubber composition and the steel cord would not be expected from Hahn's disclosure.

Kaneda does not make up for the deficiencies of Hahn. Thus, Hahn and Kaneda, either alone or in combination, fail to render obvious the present claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

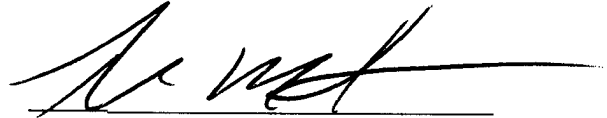
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/598,688

Attorney Docket No.: Q96967

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas M. Hunter
Registration No. 64,676

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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